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WEATHER

MON: 37°F | 27°F
Mostly Sunny

TUE: 41°F | 22°F
Rain or Snow Likely

WED: 27°F | 14°F
Partly Sunny

Prof. Asu Ozdaglar named next head of EECS department

Ozdaglar will be first woman in MIT's history to hold this position

By Jessica Shi
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Prof. Asu Ozdaglar PhD '03 was appointed head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, effective Jan. 1, 2018. Ozdaglar has been the interim department head since July 1 and will become the first woman to head the EECS department in MIT's history.

Ozdaglar succeeds Anantha Chandrakasan, who served as department head from 2011 to 2017, when he became the dean of MIT's School of Engineering.

"Prof. Ozdaglar is a tremendous leader, a visionary researcher, and a deeply committed educator. She brings all of these qualities to bear as the first woman department head for EECS at MIT. She is a great role model for women in leadership," Chandrakasan wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

Previously, Ozdaglar has assumed several other leadership positions, including associate department head, director of the Laboratory for Information Decision Systems, and associate director of the Institute for Data, Systems, and Society, according to an email, also written by Chandrakasan, announcing Ozdaglar's appointment.

Ozdaglar has also made "fundamental contributions to optimization theory, economic and social networked systems, and game theory" through her research, as well as "equally substantial" contributions to education at MIT, such as by developing multiple undergraduate and graduate courses and playing a leading role in the launch of the Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science (6-14) joint major, the email continued.

Ozdaglar received both an SM and PhD from MIT in 1998 and 2003, respectively.

The department head search committee was chaired by Prof. Polina Golland and included over a dozen other EECS professors and engineering administrators, according to the email announcement.

"It is an incredible honor and tremendous responsibility. EECS is a fantastic department with world-class research, amazing faculty and students. I look forward to working with every member of our community in moving EECS forward," Ozdaglar wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

ADRIAN BUTTERWORTH—THE TECH

A cappella group MIT Chorallaries performing at the Tech Twinkles, an event hosted by the Undergraduate Association. Dec. 6.

Facebook COO to be 2018 speaker

Facebook's Chief Operating Officer, Sheryl Sandberg will be MIT's commencement speaker June 8, 2018.

As COO, Sandberg oversees Facebook's business operations. Before her role at Facebook, Sandberg was vice president of global online sales and operations at Google, and before that, she was chief of staff the United States Treasury Department under President Clinton.

Sandberg holds two degrees from Harvard University, a BA in economics (1991) and an MBA (1995).

Graduate Student Council President Sarah Ann Goodman told MIT News that she is "thrilled that Sheryl Sandberg was selected as the Commencement speaker. The MIT community will benefit immensely from the insights of this trailblazing and resilient woman in the tech industry."

Previous MIT commencement speakers include Apple CEO Tim Cook (2017); actor and filmmaker Matt Damon (2016); U.S. Chief Technology Officer Megan Smith '86 SM '88 (2015); DuPont CEO Ellen Kullman (2014); and Dropbox co-founder and CEO Drew Houston '05 (2013).

Editor's note: Last Thursday's print edition of The Tech *unintentionally featured an inaccurate headline for this article. This headline served as a placeholder while a proper one was written to fit the size available in the paper. The placeholder headline was mistakenly printed.* The Tech *deeply regrets this production error and means no offense to Ms. Sandberg.*

— Karleigh Moore

PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook, will be the 2018 commencement speaker.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Papers disappear, Tech Exec responds

The Tech is more than just bundles of newsprint in the Infinite

The Executive Board of *The Tech*

It is hard to say when a week ends and begins for *The Tech*. The paper is printed and distributed to campus on Thursdays. Our departments have their all-hands-on-deck organizational meetings for each edition on Sundays. Our staff stays up late on Tuesdays, laying out advertisements, arts articles, campus life pieces, opinion submissions, and sports write-ups. On Wednesdays, we stay up late editing, putting final touches on news articles and then adding them to the layout, and finally hoping everything is ready in time for things to go to press. On all the days in between, our photographers attend events capturing key moments, and our writers and editors are busy collecting information and crafting it into articles that aim to be truthful and easy to understand. There is never an idle day for a *Tech* staffer.

It's easy to walk past stacks of *The Tech* each week, taking them for granted as a fixture of the campus landscape. Maybe you're a loyal reader who reads through each article, or maybe an avid puzzler who finishes our crosswords and sudoku puzzles before class begins. Maybe you're just in it for the movie reviews or news about campus residence halls. We sincerely appreciate your readership of *The Tech*. It is for readers like you, members of the MIT community and occasional campus visitors, that we put in these long hours to provide free newspapers each week.

No one joins *The Tech* because they are bored and looking for a way to kill time; no one at MIT adds an activity to their busy schedules under those conditions. We do it because we have a profound desire to serve the community, present and future, with an accurate, fair, and holistic record of the days we spend at the Institute.

This past Friday, more than 3,000 copies of *The Tech* disappeared from stands around campus, between early morning and the evening. This is highly unusual; stacks usually gradually deplete, with some leftover copies when new papers hit the stands the next week. When our team at *The Tech* realized that our latest edition had been taken under these suspicious circumstances, we felt sad, disheartened, and somewhat threatened. In the past, we've had copies stolen in this manner as a form of censorship, meant to suppress views and events presented in the paper. We hope that last week's copies are not missing due to similar circumstances, in response to an erroneous headline in our article on Sheryl Sandberg.

This Friday, nearly half our distribution was taken, and this undermines *The Tech*'s mission of making timely news easily accessible to the MIT community.

We know that some on campus use old copies of *The Tech* for art projects and the like, though we don't have any reason to believe these copies were taken for these reasons, it seems like a good time to let you know where we stand on the use of *The Tech* for these purposes. We don't mind missing the odd copy or two for art projects. (We won't even notice it.) We usually have old spare copies around our office that we can donate — we recently gave hundreds of old papers to the clay studio on the fourth floor of the student center, for example. We'd be happy to do the same for other groups if we are able to. Please send us an email and ask if you need newsprint for these types of projects.

We don't have any leads on the whereabouts of our papers (an uncomfortable position for a newspaper, as you might imagine) so if you have any idea, please send us an email at *general@tech.mit.edu*. You can even do so anonymously if you wish.

MISSING NEWSPAPERS!

Friday evening, *Tech* staffers noticed that approximately 3,000 copies of the paper were missing from many of the most popular distribution locations on campus, including the Infinite corridor and the student center. We do not know where the papers went or who took them. This incident has been reported to the MIT Police. If you have any information about this incident or the whereabouts of these newspapers, please contact *general@tech.mit.edu*.

IN SHORT

Subject evaluations are open until 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 18.

Continuing students must begin pre-registration for spring classes by 5 p.m. Dec. 28 to avoid late fees. Pre-registration for IAP closes 5 p.m. Jan. 12.

Shuttles to the airport will run from Dec. 21 to Dec. 23.

Send news and tips to *news@tech.mit.edu*.

NET NEUTRALITY

The FCC will vote to dismantle net neutrality rules next week. SIPB calls on MIT to fight the decision. **OPINION, p. 2**

HOW TO DO COURSE EVALS

There's an art to complaining (or praising). **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 3**

CLIMATE SUMMIT AT MIT

Bloomberg, Moniz, and others talk carbon emissions policy. **NEWS, p. 3**

BASKETBALL WEEKEND UPDATE

The Engineers vanquish their foes on the court. **SPORTS, p. 3**

HANG IN THERE, JOAN

A poignant opera about Joan of Arc comes to Boston. **ARTS, p. 4**

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OPINION OPINION OPINION

MIT hosts climate policy summit, Bloomberg speaks

On Dec. 7 and 8, MIT hosted the Northeastern North America Policy Summit, which brought together climate researchers, policymakers, and business and civic leaders from the northeastern U.S. and eastern Canada to share climate leadership strategies.

In light of the changing national policies regarding climate change, this year's focus was on strategies at the local level for states, provinces, and mayors — by lowering carbon emissions from various sectors, implementing carbon pricing, and using natural systems to augment climate mitigation.

Among the speakers were Michael Bloomberg, businessman, and three-term New York City mayor; Ernest Moniz, Special Advisor to the President and 13th U.S. Secretary of Energy; Maria Zuber, Vice President for Research at MIT; and Robert Millard '73, chair of the MIT Corporation.

As Moniz put it, "There is no going back after Paris. We are headed to a low carbon future. That is not going to be deflected in any permanent sense by the current dialogue in the United States because it will be carried out by the states and cities and business."

Webcasts of the event are available on climatesummit.mit.edu.

—Sheila Baber

LILY BAILEY—THE TECH

MIT DanceTroupe, one of the largest student dance teams on campus, performs at their fall show, "Rick and MoreDT" in the Kresge Little Theater.

SPORTS BLITZ

Men's basketball (9–1) defeated Rhode Island College 76 to 63 Thursday, Dec. 7. Cameron Korb '19 scored a career-high 32 points and was 8-for-13 for three-point shots. Saturday, the Engineers defeated Fitchburg State 85 to 63. This victory was the Engineer's sixth in a winning streak.

Men's squash (9–2) lost to Harvard University this past Thursday, Dec. 7. Harvard, ranked second, beat MIT, ranked 22nd, in eight of the nine matches. The Engineers defeated Bowdoin College Saturday afternoon 9 to 0.

Women's basketball (4–2, 3–0 NEWMAC) defeated Emerson College (71–48) at an away game this past Wednesday. Jocelyn Luizzi '21 scored 17 points, and had seven rebounds and four assists.

CAMPUS LIFE

A guide for course evaluations

Some ideas to consider

By Karleigh Moore
EDITOR

You've probably gotten a deluge of emails asking you to fill out course evaluations. You've got a lot on your plate right now with finals and such, so here are a few questions to ponder so you can optimize your subject evaluations. You've gotta make sure instructors and departments hear your feedback.

Were there enough TAs and LAs for the course? Were the lines at office hours too long? Did psets take forever to be graded and returned? Let 'em know in those evals so they can allot more TAs in the future. This is your chance to help future students out and make sure the class has the resources it needs to do better!

Did the professor have bad handwriting or rely too much on poorly made slides? Make a note of it.

Did you find a certain lecture or recitation technique especially effective? Course evals won't explode if you provide positive feedback, too, you know, so pass along the good vibes.

Are you a visual learner, and is some class's approach to chemistry just not cutting it for you? Explain your problems in the comments section.

Did a particular TA do an extra awesome job of explaining concepts to you? Give them a shout out. It'll make their day, I promise.

Sometimes it can be hard to remember all the feedback you might have for a course at the end of the semester. One strategy I've adopted is to start a Google Doc, and as soon as something noteworthy — good or bad — happens in a class, I make notes that I'll copy-paste into my evaluations at the end of term. That way, the feedback is fresh, and it saves me time at the end of the term while still allowing me to submit useful feedback. This method can be a good cathartic tool, too, after something unfortunate happens in a class like a bad interaction with a TA or an unfair exam. Go to the Doc and write it all out. I highly recommend this strategy.

COURTESY OF DAPER COMMUNICATIONS

Bradley Jomard '19, guard for the Engineers, plays against Rhode Island College Thursday, Dec. 7.

ALBUM REVIEW

Pacific Radio is just so-so

LA rock band's debut album *Pretty, but Killing Me* gives no thrill to me

Pretty, but Killing Me

Pacific Radio

Released Dec. 8, 2017

By Patricia Gao
STAFF WRITER

Maintaining a rock band is hard. I speak from experience: I formed one in February. It lasted about five days.

That being said, maintaining a rock band is not necessary. Some people are just not meant to make music, a fact I thought about while listening to Pacific Radio. The Los Angeles-based rock band's first full-length album, *Pretty, but Killing Me*, was quite a ways beyond unpleasant.

Don't get me wrong — I wouldn't mind if Pacific Radio kept *playing* music. Its members do not lack technical skill, and the lead singer has a bearable drawl. The production of *Pretty*, masterminded by Grammy-nominated Eric Weaver, is fine. What bothers me is that the album is built from predictable (because unoriginal) tropes and shallow lyrics. It was, in a nutshell, not worth listening to because I had heard it all before.

Take, for example, *Pretty's* second track ("Whiskey Girl"). This song is one of the better ones on the album, but it still seems familiar. It's bass-heavy — typical of rock songs, — and over-repeats the line with the band's one good pun: "I took a shot on a whiskey girl." Midway through, the chorus is repeated in a different tempo, replacing the bridge because the band is too lazy to write new words for one.

Of course, that's an assumption, but one I make having heard the rest of *Pretty*, which is almost imitative in its humdrum. There's the moment or two, naturally, when the instruments pause appropriately for vocal emphasis; there's the requisite series of bass solos; there's the awkward rhyme ("sin" with "again," in "Last Night's Makeup"); there's even a song that sounds suspiciously like a Beach Boys tune ("Dancin'").

COURTESY OF SECRET SERVICE PUBLICITY

Joe Robinson (singer/guitar), Joe Stiteler (bass), Kyle Biane (guitar), and Hyke Shirinian (drums) comprise Pacific Radio.

In fact, Pacific Radio seems so lackadaisical about its composition that it imitates itself. The final quarter of the album consists entirely of slow, nearly waltz-y songs about longing.

On top of this, the lyrics on *Pretty* are aggressively uninspired. The majority of them are, frankly, sexist, from the phrase "She's hot as sin but worth the melt" ("Katie") to an entire song's worth of rhymes dedicated to a woman's tight jeans and how she should want to take them off when she meets the singer. I felt extremely uncomfortable during that song ("Tight Jeans"), especially when the question "Was it as good for you as it was for me?" was followed by the declaration, "I'm *sure* it was."

So while I'm impressed that the Pacific Radio players have kept their band alive far longer than I kept mine, I'm not sure that the rockers should celebrate the release of such a flat record in *Pretty, but Killing Me*. Give it a few years, perhaps, but for now, they might want to keep their creations in the garage.

ARTS ARTS ARTS